

REMARKS

Summary

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 24, 2005. Claims 13, 17, and 23 are amended herein. Claim 21 is cancelled. Claims 1-20, 22, and 23 are pending.

Claims 1-12 and 22 are allowed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner objects to claim 17 due to a grammatical error in the claim language. Claim 17 is amended herein to overcome this objection, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Oami (US 6,415,041).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claims 13 and 23 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Accordingly, claims 13 and 23, are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 21 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter.

Claim 17 is amended to correct a grammatical error in the claim language as required by the Examiner.

All of the pending claims have either been allowed, amended herein to include allowable subject matter, or depend from such a claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

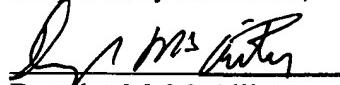
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas M. McAllister
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 37,886
Lipsitz & McAllister, LLC
755 Main Street
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

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